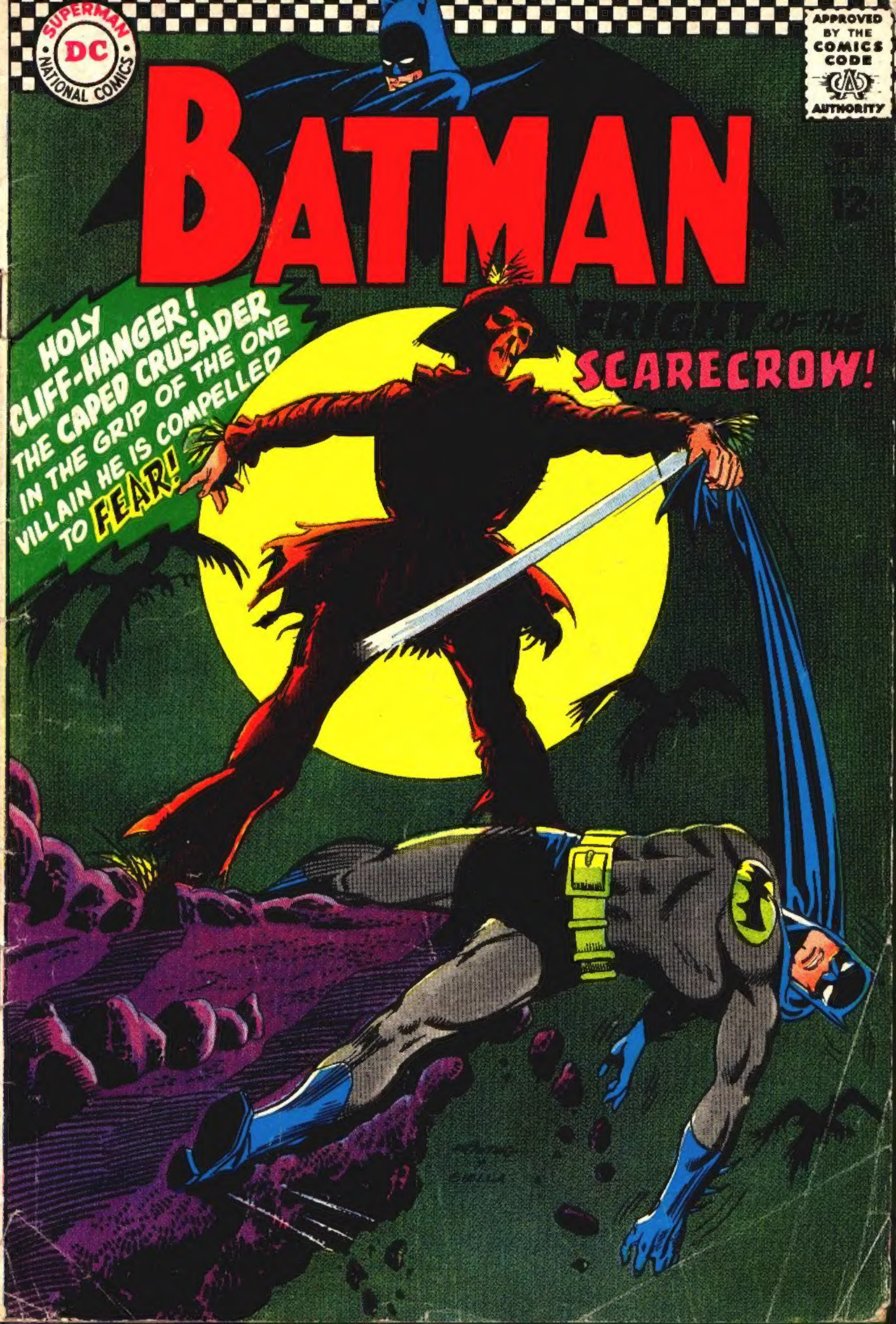
SUPERMAN
DC
NATIONAL COMICS
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
BATMAN
HOLY CLIFF-HANGER! THE CAPED CRUSADER IN THE GRIP OF THE ONE VILLAIN HE IS COMPELLED TO FEAR!
SCARECROW!

OUT OF THE DIM AND MISTY DAYS OF THE PAST-- LIKE SOME SINISTER SHADOW FROM A NIGHTMARE-- STEPS THE SHAGGY, STRAWLIKE FIGURE OF THE **SCARECROW!**

ONCE AGAIN THE **PRINCE OF PANIC** CLUES IN **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** TO HIS FEAR-FILLED CRIMES! ONCE AGAIN THE **DYNAMIC DUO** IS INTIMIDATED AND TERROR-STRICKEN BY THE --

BATMAN

With ROBIN THE BOY WONDER

FRIGHT OF THE SCARECROW!

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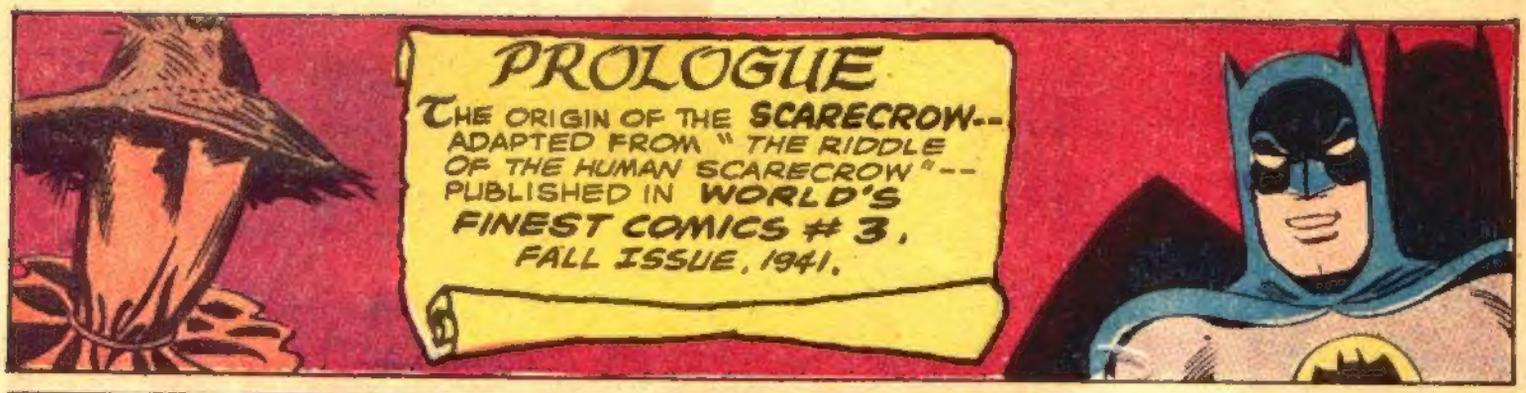

PROLOGUE
THE ORIGIN OF THE SCARECROW-- ADAPTED FROM "THE RIDDLE OF THE HUMAN SCARECROW"-- PUBLISHED IN WORLD'S FINEST COMICS #3, FALL ISSUE, 1941.

VERY OFTEN AN INCIDENT WHICH OCCURS IN CHILDHOOD SUGGESTS THE SORT OF PERSON THAT CHILD WILL BE WHEN HE HAS GROWN UP. SUCH WAS THE CASE WITH JONATHAN CRANE, WHO AS A SMALL BOY LIKED TO FRIGHTEN BIRDS...

WHEN JONATHAN CRANE GREW UP, HE BECAME A TEACHER OF PSYCHOLOGY IN A UNIVERSITY--AND THIS IS WHERE WE FIND HIM TODAY...
GENTLEMEN, THIS TERM WE STUDY THE PSYCHOLOGY OF FEAR! FEAR--THAT AWFUL DREAD WHICH GRIPS A PERSON WHEN THOUGHTS OF TERROR RUN THROUGH HIS MIND!

NOTICE THIS GUN! SHOULD I POINT IT AT YOU, YOU WOULD BE AFRAID. BUT-- YOU WOULD BE MORE AFRAID--

--IF I DID THIS!
BLAM!
CRASH!

NOW YOU SEE WHAT THE GUN CAN DO! IT CAN DESTROY! BEFORE-- YOU ONLY GUESSED WHAT IT COULD DO. NOW THAT YOU HAVE SEEN ITS DESTRUCTIVE POWER-- YOU ARE EVEN MORE AFRAID! SIMPLE PSYCHOLOGY, GENTLEMEN--
AFTER CLASS IS OVER, JONATHAN CRANE PASSES BY SOME OTHER PROFESSORS...
YOU'RE COMING TO THE PARTY I'M GIVING TONIGHT. EVERY-BODY'LL BE THERE-- SO DON'T FORGET!
EVERYBODY-- BUT ONE, eh? CRANE LOOKS SO SHABBY IN THOSE OLD CLOTHES-- POSITIVELY WEIRD!
CRANE EARNS THE SAME SALARY WE DO! WHY DOESN'T HE BUY SOME DECENT CLOTHES?
HE SPENDS EVERY CENT HE EARNS TO BUY NEW BOOKS!
POOR CRANE! HE CERTAINLY IS AN ODD FELLOW. HE LOOKS LIKE A SCARECROW IN THAT GET-UP OF HIS!
LATER IN HIS HOME, PROFESSOR CRANE PONDERS...
THE FOOLS! DO THEY THINK I'D GIVE UP MY PRECIOUS BOOKS JUST TO BUY CLOTHES?... BAH! THEY THINK I'M ODD, DO THEY? THAT I LOOK LIKE A SCARECROW.. A SCARECROW!
THEY JUDGE HUMAN VALUES BY MONEY-- BY THE SHOW WHICH MONEY MAKES! IF I HAD MONEY THEY'D RE-SPECT ME, ALL RIGHT! AND--AND I COULD STILL BUY ALL THE BOOKS I WANT! YES-- IF I ONLY HAD MONEY... LOTS OF MONEY...

NEXT DAY IN CLASS...
TAKE THE EXAMPLE OF THE "PROTECTION RACKET", AS WORKED BY THE GANGSTER. HE WANTS MONEY--SO HE MAKES PEOPLE PAY HIM. AND HOW DOES HE DO THIS?

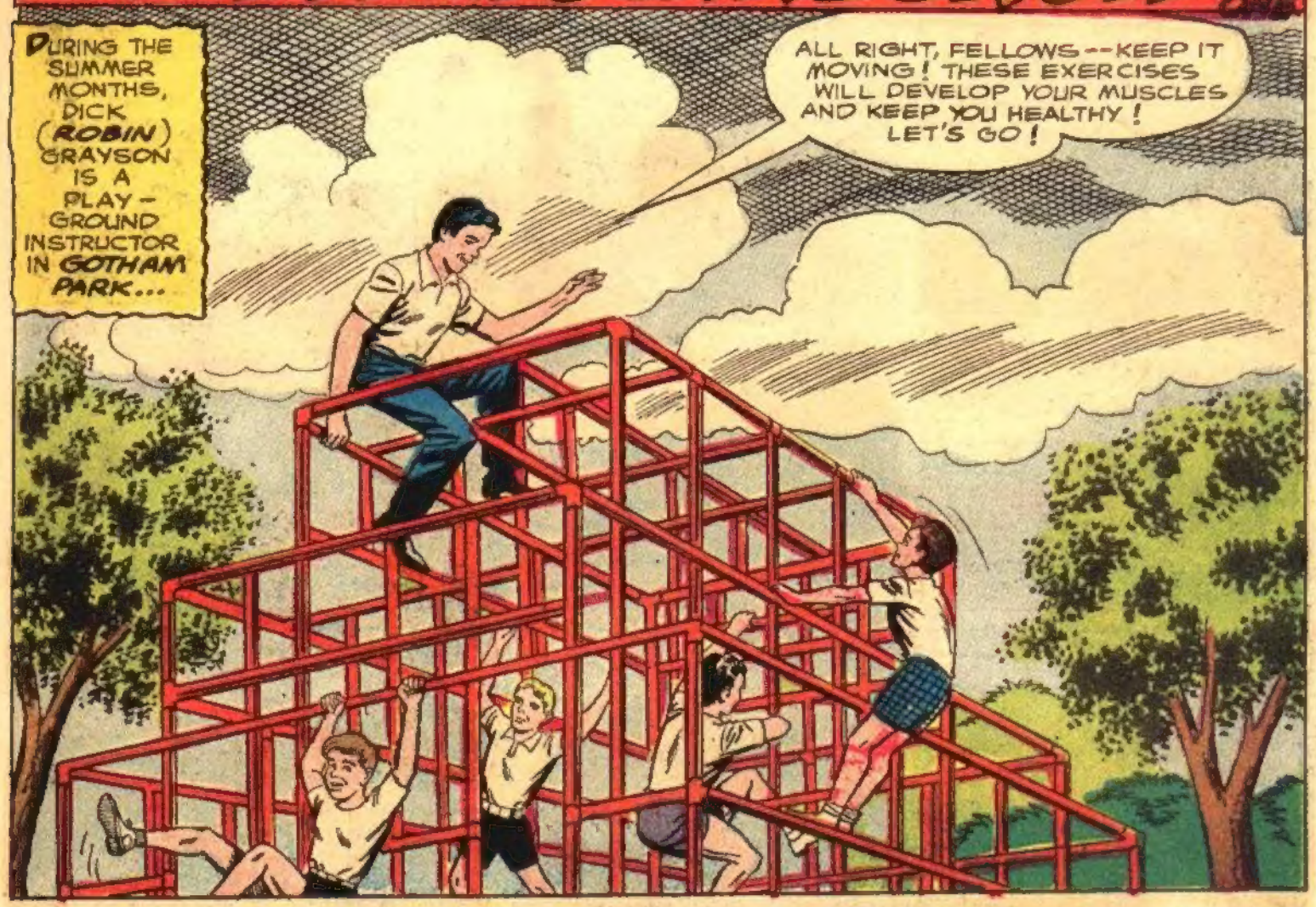
HE MAKES PEOPLE AFRAID--SO TERRIBLY AFRAID THEY PAY HIM WHAT HE ASKS! YES--HE PUTS REAL FEAR INTO THEIR HEARTS--AND HE GETS MONEY! LOTS OF MONEY--ALL BECAUSE PEOPLE ARE AFRAID OF HIM!

IN HIS HOME THAT NIGHT, THE DISTORTED BRAIN OF PROFESSOR CRANE BEGINS THINKING ALONG FANTASTIC LINES--ALONG CRIMINAL LINES...
ODD, AM I? AND--A SCARECROW! FEAR MAKES MONEY FOR THE GANGSTER SO WHY NOT FOR--ME? HMMMM...

IF I LOOK LIKE A SCARECROW--THEN THAT WILL BE MY SYMBOL! A SYMBOL OF POVERTY AND FEAR COMBINED! THE PERFECT SYMBOL TO REPRESENT JONATHAN CRANE--THE SCARECROW!

AND SO IS BORN AN EVIL FIGURE OF THE NIGHT! ACROSS BATMAN'S HORIZON STALKS THIS NEW AND FRIGHTENING FORM--A SCARY SHAPE OF STRAW AND SHAGGY BURLAP, WITH A BRAIN BOTH CUNNING AND DISTORTED!
WHO IS THIS FIGURE WHOSE VERY LUDICROUS APPEARANCE INSPIRES FEAR--SYMBOLIZES FEAR--FEAR INCARNATE--FEAR WALKING THE STREETS OF GOTHAM CITY?
IT IS THAT MOST TERRIBLE--MOST BIZARRE OF ALL CRIMINALS--THE CRIMINAL ALL WILL LEARN TO FEAR--AND CALL...
THE SCARECROW!

FRIGHT OF THE SCARECROW -- PART ONE!

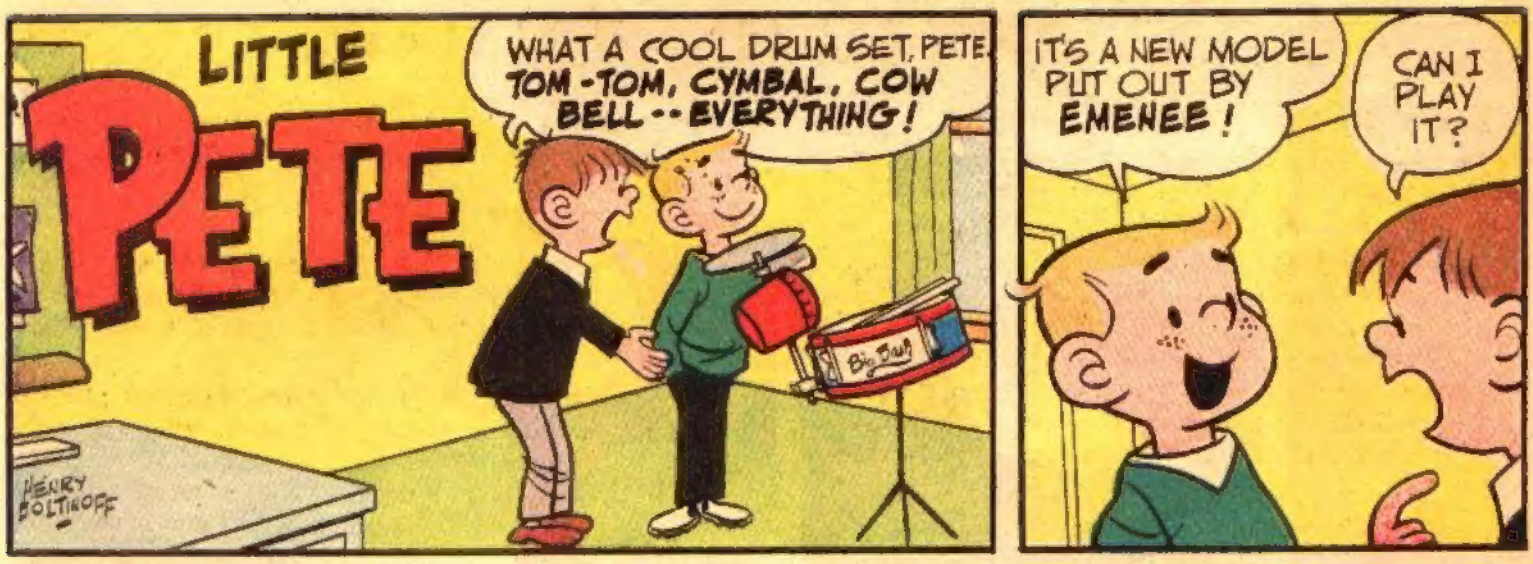

DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS, DICK (ROBIN) GRAYSON IS A PLAY-GROUND INSTRUCTOR IN GOTHAM PARK...
ALL RIGHT, FELLOWS--KEEP IT MOVING! THESE EXERCISES WILL DEVELOP YOUR MUSCLES AND KEEP YOU HEALTHY! LET'S GO!

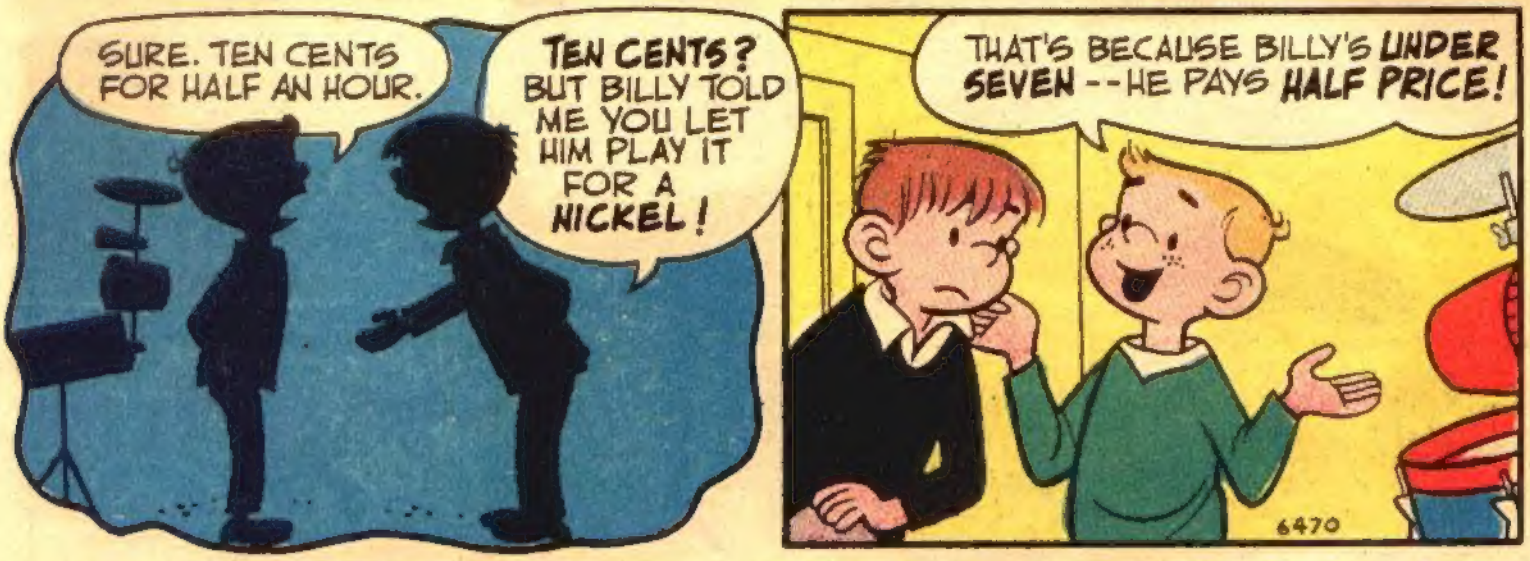
BUT OCCASIONALLY THERE IS ONE YOUNGSTER--SHY, SCHOLARLY, WITH MORE INTEREST IN PHYSICS THAN IN PHYSICAL EXERCISE--WHO KNOWS THE BITE OF FEAR...
I'M SCARED, DICK! GASP! I-I JUST CAN'T LET GO!
SURE YOU CAN, ANDY! THERE'S NO NEED TO BE AFRAID!

WE OVERCOME FEAR BY FIGHTING IT, BY DOING THE VERY THING WE FEAR TO DO! NOW GIVE IT A TRY...
IF...IF YOU SAY SO, DICK! I KNOW YOU WANT ME TO DO WELL!

UNDER THE CAJOLING WORDS AND READY SMILE OF HIS YOUTHFUL INSTRUCTOR, ANDY MAKES HIS SWING...
LOOK! LOOK! I'M DOING IT!
YOU SEE? YOU KNOW IT ISN'T SO BAD NOW! ONCE YOU OVERCOME A FEAR BY CONFRONTING IT--IT WILL NEVER BOTHER YOU AGAIN!

FROM HIS ELEVATED PERCH, DICK CAN LOOK OUT ACROSS TO THE GOTHAM PARK RIVER WHERE...
eh? THAT LOOKS LIKE A MIDGET SUBMARINE COMING UP-RIVER! BUT WHY'S A SUBMARINE SNEAKING THROUGH GOTHAM PARK? I'D BETTER FIND OUT!
OKAY, FELLOWS--TIME OUT FOR EATS! GRAB YOUR LUNCH BOXES AND MAKE FOR THE PICNIC AREA!
MOMENTS AFTERWARD, KEEN EYES FOLLOWING THE UNDERSEA CRAFT, DICK MOVES ALONG THE RIVER-BANK...
MY LUNCH--AND MY ROBIN OUTFIT--ARE IN MY BASKET SO I'M PREPARED IF SOMETHING DEVELOPS! HMMM--THE SUB IS TURNING IN TOWARD THIS BANK--
MOMENTS LATER...
HOLY SHOCKEROO! IT'S--THE--SCARECROW!! ON THE LOOSE AGAIN! WH--WHAT KIND OF CROOKED BUSINESS CAN HE PULL OFF HERE IN THE PARK?
SHORTLY, A CHEERY VOICE HAILS THE YOUTHFUL SLEUTH...
HI, THERE, DICK! ALFRED AND I CAME OVER TO SURPRISE YOUR YOUNG CHARGES WITH SOME ICE CREAM TREATS!
MASTER DICK LOOKS AS IF HE'S SEEN A GHOST!
BRUCE! ALFRED! AM I EVER GLAD YOU'RE HERE! WAIT'LL I TELL YOU WHO JUST SHOWED UP!
MOMENTS LATER, AFTER DONNING THEIR BATMAN AND ROBIN LIGHTWEIGHT SUMMER COSTUMES INSIDE THE ICE CREAM WAGON...
THE SCARECROW, eh? I WONDERED WHATEVER BECAME OF THAT OLD FEAR-FOE OF OURS!
HE'S UP TO HIS OLD TRICKS, I'LL BET!
WHILE YOU GO OUT TO APPREHEND HIM--I'LL MIND THE "STORE"!
CONTINUED ON 5 1/2 PAGE FOLLOWING.


LITTLE
PETE
WHAT A COOL DRUM SET, PETE. TOM-TOM, CYMBAL, COW BELL -- EVERYTHING!
Big Beat
HENRY BOLTINOFF
IT'S A NEW MODEL PUT OUT BY EMENEE!
CAN I PLAY IT?


SURE. TEN CENTS FOR HALF AN HOUR.
TEN CENTS? BUT BILLY TOLD ME YOU LET HIM PLAY IT FOR A NICKEL!
THAT'S BECAUSE BILLY'S UNDER SEVEN -- HE PAYS HALF PRICE!
6470

BATGIRL is HERE!

She's all...

NEW!
DYNAMIC!
KNOWING!
OVER!

SUPERMAN DC NATIONAL COMICS

ALL IN ALL --
AN ALL-STAR SENSATION!
ON SALE NOV. 29th

LETTERS TO THE BATCAVE

DEAR EDITOR:

My hearty congratulations to you on a job well done. *Batman* 184 was certainly one of the best all-around issues that I have seen to date.

To start it off, this issue boasted of a beautiful cover. The color-scheme was excellent and the eerie lettering style used in printing the words "*Where are Batman and Robin?*" added a macabre and mystifying air to the story. Although I generally favor covers which depict one specific scene taken from an interesting interval in the story, I must confess that I can find nothing wrong with this one.

As for the feature story, "Mystery of the Missing Manhunters" was ingenious, and then some. As the story progressed, things started to add up, such as why *Batman* and *Robin* had remained isolated from the rest of the world for 13 days, the main point of the story. And then it built up to its climax and to what I consider a very appropriate ending, the ironic and fitting death of *Slippery Sam*. This story had all of the necessary elements needed to make any yarn a successful one.

And then came the cherry that topped off the issue. I refer to "The Boy Wonder's Boo-Boo Patrol." At last, *Robin* is back in action by himself again! This story was certainly a good example of *Robin's* undying desire to prove his worthiness to *Batman* (although I'm reasonably assured that the *Caped Crusader* has much more faith in *Robin* than he would ever suspect).

So for the wrap-up, I'll simply say that if you keep printing future issues comparable to, or even near as good as this one, I'll keep buying.

—Alan Trahern, Covington, La.

(Would you believe that the verdict above—"one of the best all-around issues"—could be ruthlessly reversed by a femmefan? Read on below and convince yourself!—*Editor*)

• • • • •

DEAR EDITOR:

For 13 jittery nights the *Bat-signal* blazed in the sky . . . for 13 desperate days the *Hot-line* remained unanswered! Where were *Batman* and *Robin*? Where? *I'll* tell you where! They were hiding until *Batman* 184 went off sale, intelligently waiting until all the angry mutterings had subsided before they ventured into the light of day. And I don't blame them. *I'd* hide too, if I ever tried to pull off such a horrible hoax!

The cover of *Batman* 184 promised a story rich in suspense, mystery, and action. The story it represented, "Mystery of the Missing Manhunters", contained exactly *one page* of suspense (page 2), *one page* of mystery (page 3), and several pages of diluted, toned down action. Now, I am not complaining about the story itself; as stories go it was a good one. But as *suspenseful, mysterious, action-packed* stories go, it was *one big flop!* "Mystery of the Missing Manhunters" has about as much in common with "For 13 jittery nights . . . !" as a Cassius Clay press conference has with a Leonard Bernstein concert! Here I was, avidly expecting something "different" and exciting, and instead I got the usual grade A story! (Nothing wrong with Grade A, but when you're expecting Grade AA, well . . .)

As for "The Boy Wonder's Boo-Boo Patrol," I'm glad to say I could find *absolutely nothing wrong!* Uh . . . well, maybe I'd better take that back, just in case, for the story wasn't *that* wonderful. *Robin's* solo adventures are a real treat, though, and I hope you'll make it a practice of giving him at least one a year.

—Irene Vartanoff, Bethesda, Md.

• • • • •

DEAR EDITOR:

Batman 184 was rich, almost seething with the one element that is so important in most all *Batman* stories, and that's mystery. And, Mr. Editor, that is why I liked issue 184.

I'm not exactly sure whom to credit the script of "Mystery of the Missing Manhunters" with. Whoever did it sure did an outstanding job of packing within 14 pages the wonderful type of action that has become synonymous with the *Caped Crime-Fighter*. There were a few things that I didn't cotton to. Such as the hypnotism disk used by the *Duo* being ready for use. This fact peeves me. Whenever *Batman* or *Robin* need something in the *Batcave* (or *Batmobile*) all they do is turn around and there it is. To me at least, this seems highly UNrealistic, and I wish that this practice could be curtailed.

Frankly, I don't know who wrote "The Boy Wonder's Boo-Boo Patrol" but if I were the author I wouldn't own up to this disaster. There are few who are more enthusiastic about the *Teen-aged Thunderbolt* having solos but not like this one. Apparently, this story was to satisfy the younger adolescent readers. I found this story a comedown in the high quality of *Batman* since the instigation of the "New Look".

If not for the magnificent artwork by Bob Kane and the eye-catching, question-forming, and otherwise captivating cover by Carmine Infantino, I just might have not liked this issue; but I *did*!

—Frank Klein, Webster Groves, Mo.

(Pride goeth before a . . . fall—so Gardner Fox acknowledges authorship of the "outstanding" *Missing Manhunters* story as well as the *Boo-Boo Patrol* "disaster"!—*Editor*)

• • • • •

DEAR EDITOR:

Many times I enjoy the "fill-in" story in a *Batman* comic much more than the lead story, and this was the case with issue 184. "The Boy Wonder's Boo-Boo Patrol" was undoubtedly the best story featuring *Robin* in a solo act I have ever read. Though the plot was one of the oldest in the business, the author succeeded in invoking brand new thrills and surprises in the story.

The author also made *Robin* appear much more mature than the normal teen-ager (assuming that I'm normal), because if *I* were *Robin*, and some guy said, "Where's *Batman*, junior? Doesn't he know you're out alone?" (page 3, panel 3) to me, I might have belted him one!

—John Bralek, Akron, Ohio

• • • • •

DEAR EDITOR:

There's something about "Mystery of the Missing Manhunters" that I've just got to know! Isn't the name of the story's villain—Sam Lorenzo—a variation on Lorenzo Semple, Jr., the head-writer on a certain campy TV show?

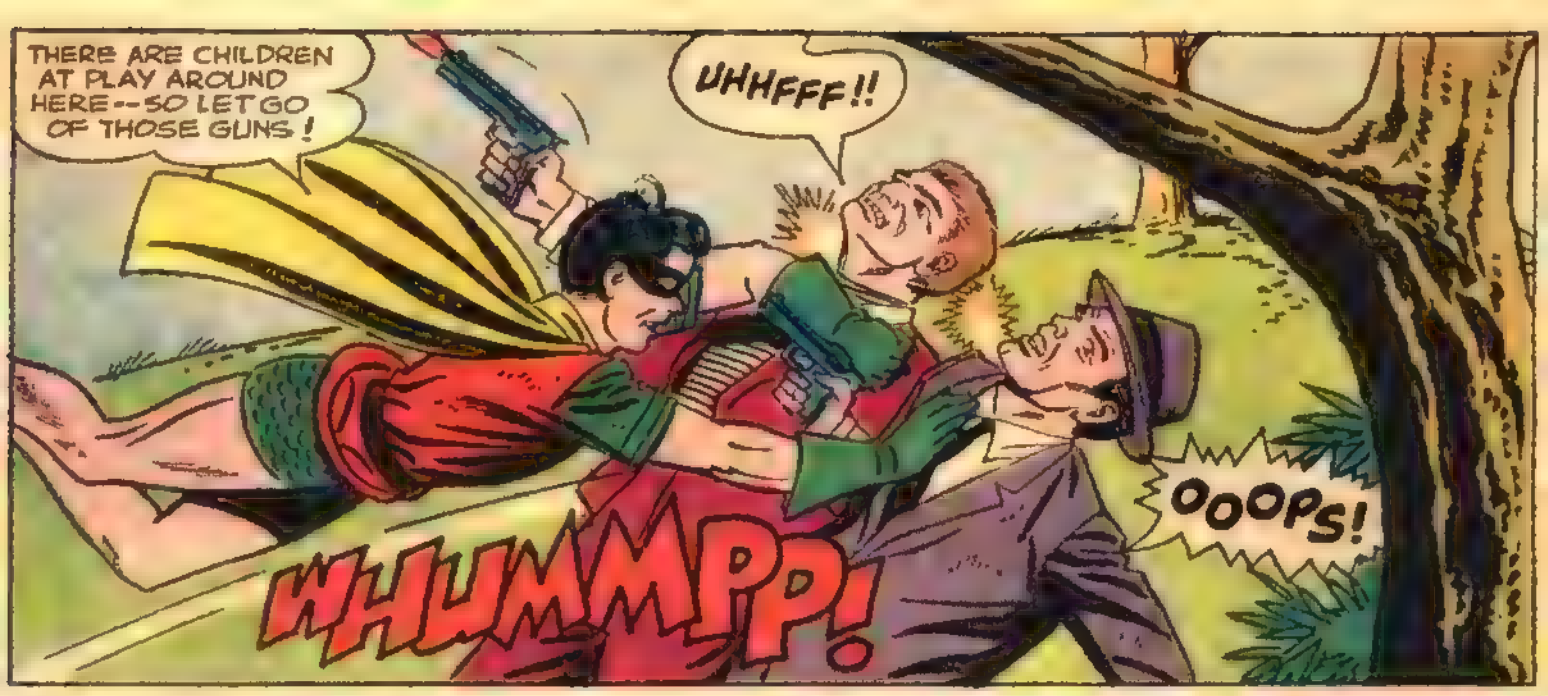
—Mark Evanier, Los Angeles, Cal.

(In all innocence we plead guilty to the name-switch! You're the only one who caught on!—*Editor*)

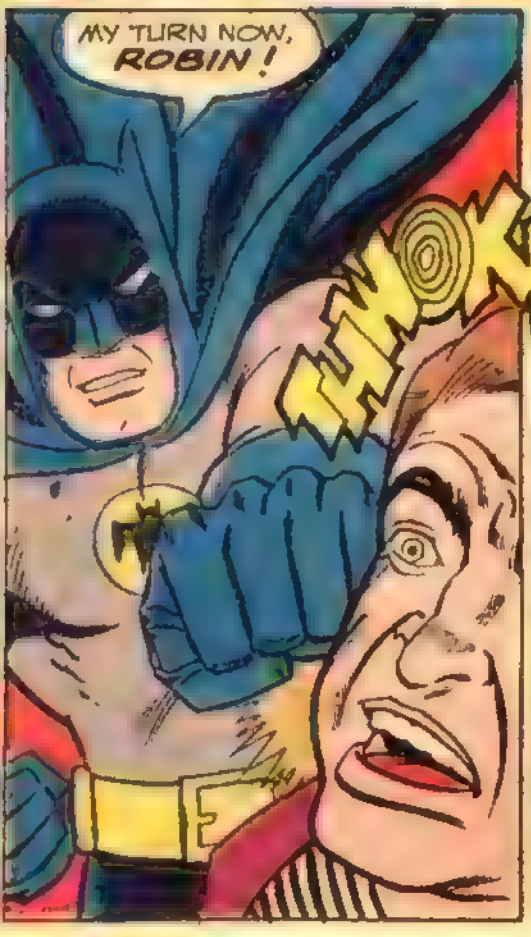
• • • • •

Address communications concerning this magazine to LETTERS TO THE BATCAVE, National Periodical Publications, 575 Lexington Ave., New York, N.Y., 10022. Important note: Please send communications concerning the *Batman-TV* show directly to your local TV station.

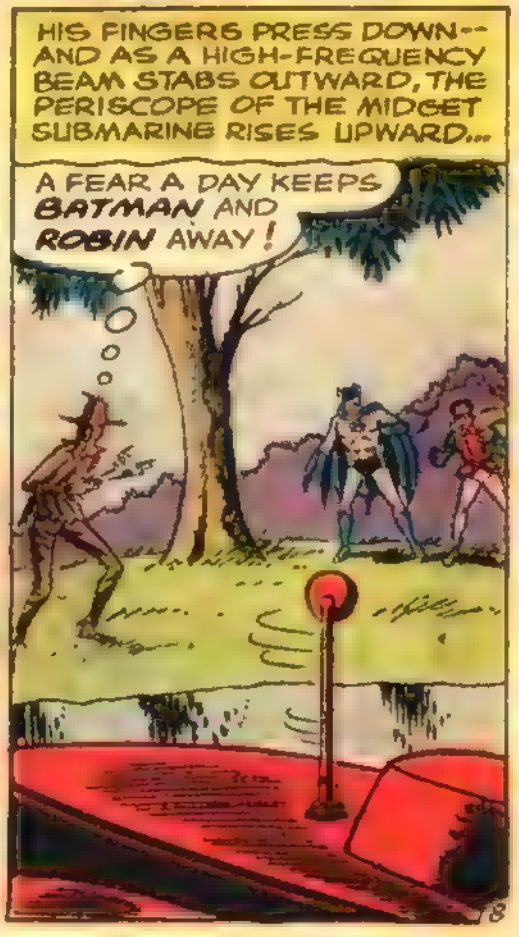
AHEAD OF THEM, THE STRAW-MAN SCOUNDREL IS URGING ON HIS COHORTS...
HURRY IT UP! WE'RE IN A REMOTE CORNER OF THE PARK--AND ONLY KIDS COME TO THE PARK AT THIS HOUR OF THE MORNING--SO DIG, DIG, DIG!
D-DIG WHO'S COMIN', SCARE-CROW!
BATMAN AND ROBIN! TRUST THEM TO SHOW UP JUST WHEN I'VE RECOVERED THE LOOT OF MY PAST ROBBERIES!
I OUTRAN ROBIN, SCARECROW--SO I WIN FIRST CRACK AT YOU!
ZWAKK!
DUCK, BATMAN! BULLETS ARE ABOUT TO START FLYING!
WHO COULD ASK FOR TWO EASIER TARGETS!
HA! THE BULLETS ARE FLYING PAST US!
BLAM!
CRAK!


THERE ARE CHILDREN AT PLAY AROUND HERE--SO LET GO OF THOSE GUNS!
UHHFFF!!
WHUMMPP!
OOOPS!

I FIGURED I'D HAVE TO HELP YOU LET GO!
WHAPP!
WHAKK!
THUD!


MY TURN NOW, ROBIN!
THWOK!

MEANWHILE, DAZED BY THE SAVAGE BLOW THAT LEVELED HIM, THE SCARECROW DRAWS OUT AN ELECTRONIC DEVICE...
HERE'S WHERE I STRIKE BACK--WITH FEAR!


HIS FINGERS PRESS DOWN--AND AS A HIGH-FREQUENCY BEAM STABS OUTWARD, THE PERISCOPE OF THE MIDGET SUBMARINE RISES UPWARD...
A FEAR A DAY KEEPS BATMAN AND ROBIN AWAY!

FROM THE PERISCOPE ARCHES A CHEMICAL SPRAY--A SPECIAL CONCOCTION OF THE TYRANT OF TERROR...
YULP! I'M FALLING...
LOSING MY BALANCE--GOING TO TOPPLE OVER--FALL INTO A BOTTOMLESS PIT...
YES, YOU TWO ARE FALLING.. INTO MY TRAP OF FEAR!
GOT TO HOLD TIGHT! C-CAN'T LET GO--OR I'LL DROP DOWN THROUGH THE GROUND!
DON'T HOG THE WHOLE TREE, ROBIN--GIVE ME GRABBING ROOM TOO!
FEAR OF FALLING--AN INNATE FEAR OF MANKIND! IT'S ENGULFING THEM BOTH AS I LEAVE BEHIND MY CALLING CARDS--THESE STRAWS!
LOOK WELL AT THOSE STRAWS, DYNAMIC DUO! KNOW THEM FOR A SYMBOL OF THE MIGHTY POWER I WIELD AS THE--SCARECROW! FAREWELL, MY FEARFUL FELON-CHASERS--FOR NOW!
SLOWLY THE MINUTES PASS. GRADUALLY THE MUSCLE-BULGING ARMS OF THE CAPED CRUSADER AND BOY WONDER RELAX THEIR CLUTCH...
IT'S PASSING...I KNOW THE GROUND WON'T SWALLOW ME UP NOW...
YES, THE EFFECT OF THE CHEMICAL--PROBABLY A HALLUCINOGEN* DERIVATIVE--IS WEARING OFF!
*EDITOR'S NOTE: A FAMILY OF CHEMICALS WITH UNUSUAL HALLUCINATORY AND EMOTIONAL EFFECTS ON THE HUMAN BRAIN AND BODY.

RACING TOWARD THE RIVER BANK, THEY FIND THE MIDGET SUBMARINE GONE-- BUT NOT FORGOTTEN...

AS HE DID ON HIS LAST ENCOUNTER WITH US, THE **SCARECROW** HAS LEFT US CRYPTIC CLUES! **PARK**-- OBVIOUSLY HIS FIRST VENTURE HERE TO REGAIN THE LOOT OF HIS MANY PAST ROBBERIES...

ARK! AND-- **MARK!** IF ONLY **THEIR** MEANING WERE AS OBVIOUS!

PARK ARK MARK

A LITTLE LATER, AS THEY ARE DISPENSING ICE CREAM TREATS, THE DEJECTED BRUCE WAYNE AND DICK GRAYSON LOSE A LITTLE OF THEIR GLOOM IN THE WARM GRINS OF THE BOYS...

THOSE CHEERY FACES SURE MAKE A FELLOW FEEL GOOD-- BUT I'D FEEL BETTER IF THE **SCARECROW** WERE BEHIND BARS!

I'M GLAD I GOT THIS IDEA OF HANDING OUT FREE ICE CREAM-- EVEN IF IT DID MEAN A SET-BACK AT THE HANDS OF THE **SCARECROW!**

STORY CONTINUES ON THE NEXT PAGE ...

You call this a TEAM-UP?

THEN WHY ARE BATMAN and HAWKMAN TEARING EACH OTHER APART?

WHAT TURNS THESE TWO SUPER-HEROES into SUPER-ENEMIES?

THE ANSWERS ARE WAITING AT YOUR NEAREST NEWSSTAND--

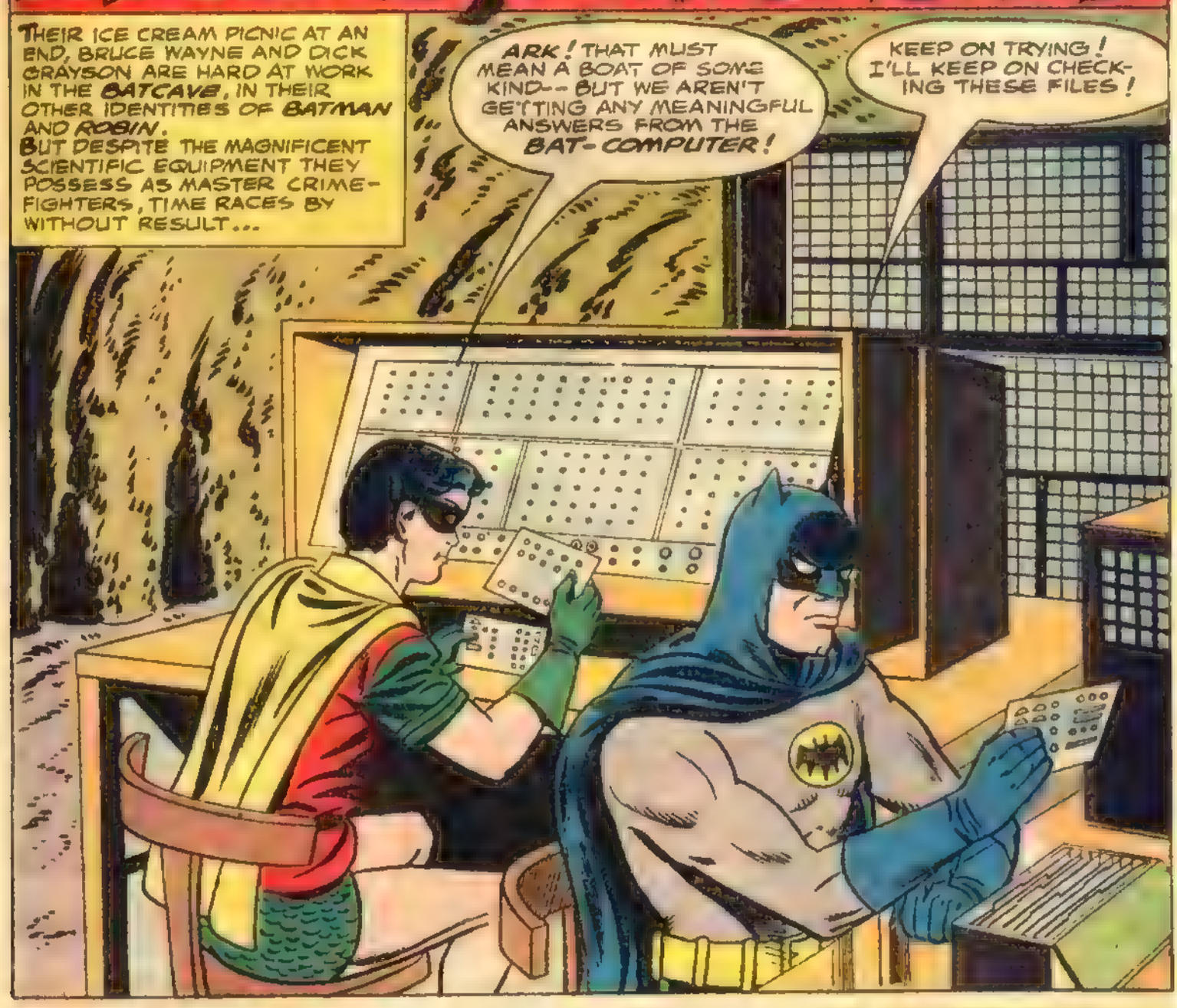
BRAVE and BOLD presents
12
BATMAN AND HAWKMAN
YOU BETTER BELIEVE IT! THAT'S THE CAPED CRUSADER AND THE WINGED WONDER EXPOSING EACH OTHER'S SECRET IDENTITY TO THE WORLD!

IN THE LATEST SUPER-ISSUE of... DC SUPERMAN-BATMAN NATIONAL COMICS

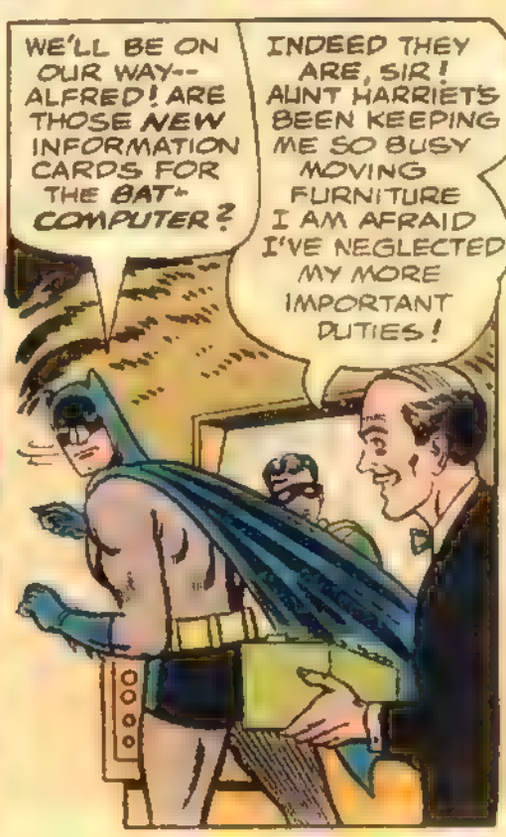
The BRAVE and the BOLD

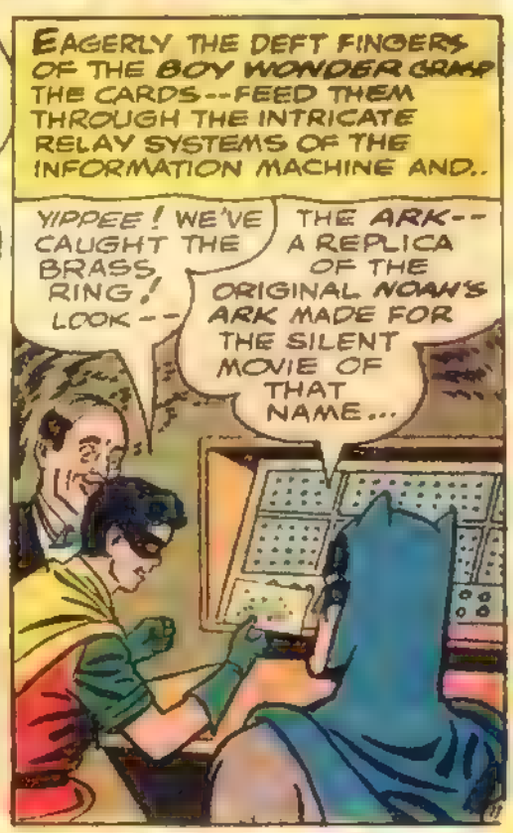
ON SALE DEC. 22nd

FRIGHT OF THE SCARECROW PART 2


THEIR ICE CREAM PICNIC AT AN END, BRUCE WAYNE AND DICK GRAYSON ARE HARD AT WORK IN THE BATCAVE, IN THEIR OTHER IDENTITIES OF BATMAN AND ROBIN. BUT DESPITE THE MAGNIFICENT SCIENTIFIC EQUIPMENT THEY POSSESS AS MASTER CRIME-FIGHTERS, TIME RACES BY WITHOUT RESULT...
ARK! THAT MUST MEAN A BOAT OF SOME KIND-- BUT WE AREN'T GETTING ANY MEANINGFUL ANSWERS FROM THE BAT-COMPUTER!
KEEP ON TRYING! I'LL KEEP ON CHECKING THESE FILES!

HERE'S A "PROBABLE"! THE FLOATING PALACE, A GAMBLING SHIP ANCHORED OUT BEYOND THE THREE-MILE LIMIT!
Hmm... BY STRETCHING THE IMAGINATION, IT MIGHT FIT--


WE'LL BE ON OUR WAY-- ALFRED! ARE THOSE NEW INFORMATION CARDS FOR THE BAT-COMPUTER?
INDEED THEY ARE, SIR! AUNT HARRIET'S BEEN KEEPING ME SO BUSY MOVING FURNITURE I AM AFRAID I'VE NEGLECTED MY MORE IMPORTANT DUTIES!


EAGERLY THE DEFT FINGERS OF THE BOY WONDER GRIP THE CARDS--FEED THEM THROUGH THE INTRICATE RELAY SYSTEMS OF THE INFORMATION MACHINE AND..
YIPPEE! WE'VE CAUGHT THE BRASS RING! LOOK--
THE ARK-- A REPLICA OF THE ORIGINAL NOAH'S ARK MADE FOR THE SILENT MOVIE OF THAT NAME...

...AND RECENTLY PURCHASED BY RAYMOND ARCHER, A MERCHANT WHOSE TESTIMONY HELPED SEND THE SCARECROW TO JAIL. LAST TIME YOU CAPTURED HIM!
GREAT WORK, ALFRED! YOU SAVE US A WASTED NIGHT! SCARECROW UNDOUBTEDLY WANTS TO GET REVENGE ON ARCHER BY ASSAULTING HIM ON HIS ARK!
ARCHER USES THE ARK TO MAKE A LIVING THESE DAYS, CHARGING ADMISSION TO IT AS A SIGHTSEEING ATTRACTION.
IT'S GOING TO BE OUR SIGHTSEEING ATTRACTION TONIGHT! AND IF I SEE THE SCARECROW THERE--I'LL BE HAPPY TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION OUT OF MY OWN POCKET!
SOON THE ROAR OF POWERFUL MOTORS ROCK THE HARBOR WATERS AS THE BAT-BOAT RACES OUT TO SEA...
TWIN BAT-ROPES FLY UPWARD--TIGHTEN--FOLLOWED BY A PAIR OF CLIMBING FIGURES...
IN GRIM SILENCE TWO MASKED MANHUNTERS SOFT-SHOE ALONG THE DESERTED DECK...
THEY MOVE DOWN A COMPANIONWAY AND ALONG A CORRIDOR TO A DOOR THAT SLOWLY OPENS TO THE TOUCH OF FINGERS. AND NOW, AT LAST, A VOICE BREAKS THE SILENCE...
THE SCARECROW!

FORWARD LEAP THOSE HIGHLY TRAINED BODIES! WITH EVERY MUSCLE TRAINED FOR COMBAT, WITH EVERY SENSE ALERT FOR DANGER--THEY ARE LIVING WEAPONS!..
WELCOME, DYNAMIC DUO! YOU HAVE VENTURED INTO MY TRAP!
AND THEN--WITH THE SWIFTNESS OF AN EYE-BLINK, WITH THE RAPIDITY OF A HEART-BEAT--THE ROOM IS PLUNGED INTO EBON DARKNESS...
WHA-WHAT HAPPENED? I CAN'T SEE MY HAND IN FRONT OF MY FACE!
MY TRAP HAS CLOSED! THE PRIMAL FEAR OF DARKNESS KNOWN BY EVERY MAN EVER BORN--IS UPON YOU!
INSTANTLY, THE "LIGHTS" GO ON--BUT NOT FOR THE CAPED CRUSADER AND TEEN-AGE THUNDER-BOLT!...
MY SPECIAL BLACK-LIGHT VIBRATIONS HAVE AFFECTED CERTAIN SENSORY PORTIONS OF YOUR BRAIN! BELIEVE ME, THE ROOM IS FILLED WITH LIGHT--EVEN IF YOU CAN'T SEE IT! YOU ARE LIKE MEN STRUCK BLIND!
AND NOW THE ABYSMAL TERROR OF UTTER DARKNESS--INHERITED FROM OUR FIRST ANCESTORS WHEN DARKNESS MADE THEM EASY PREY OF CARNIVOROUS BEASTS--IS EATING AT YOUR VERY SOULS!
NOW I BID YOU A FEARFUL FAREWELL! FAR WORSE IS TO FOLLOW!!

GUIDED BY THAT HOARSE, SCRATCHY VOICE, THE *DYNAMIC DUO* HURLS DESPERATE BODIES IN ITS DIRECTION EVEN AS...

HERE ARE MY CALLING CARDS--DRY AND RUSTLING STRAWS! SYMBOLS OF MY RAGTAG SELF--PROOF OF MY GENIUS! NOT RAYMOND ARCHER WAS MY TARGET--THAT WAS A COVER-UP NAME FOR *MYSELF*--BUT YOU TWO! AND HERE--YOU SHALL PERISH!

BLIND--SHAKEN TO THEIR INNERMOST CORE BY THE CREEPING NIGHTMARE IN WHICH THEY FIND THEMSELVES UTTERLY ALONE IN "DARKNESS"--THEY SLAM INTO A SUDDENLY CLOSED DOOR...

HA! HA! HA!

SLOWLY THEY SAG FLOORWARDS--UNAWARE OF THE LIGHTED ROOM--KNOWING ONLY THE FEAR THAT SHAKES THEIR BODIES AND THE ETERNAL NIGHT THAT HOODS THEIR EYES...

B-BATMAN--I'M A-A-ASHAMED TO S-SAY IT--B-BUT I'M P-PETRIFIED WITH T-TERROR!

I'M F-FRIGHTENED MYSELF! BUT THIS IS A *PHYSICAL REACTION*! SOMETHING WE CANNOT CONTROL! OUR ONLY RECOURSE IS TO *FIGHT* IT--AS WE HAVE FOUGHT OTHER FOES...

UNTIL THE BLACK-LIGHT VIBRATIONS WEAR OFF--AS DID THE SPRAY IN THE PARK..! WE'VE G-GOT TO HANG ON...

I CAN FEEL THE DOOR--EVEN IF I CAN'T SEE IT! *LET'S* GET OUT OF HERE!

BUT AS THE DOOR SWINGS OPEN...

WHA-WHAT ON ARK--IS *THAT*?

BRACE YOURSELF, *ROBIN*! WE'RE ABOUT TO BE ATTACKED BY WILD ANIMALS--AND IF I KNOW THE *SCARECROW*, THEY'LL BE ANIMALS WHO CAN SEE IN THE SAME DARKNESS THAT BLINDS OUR EYES!

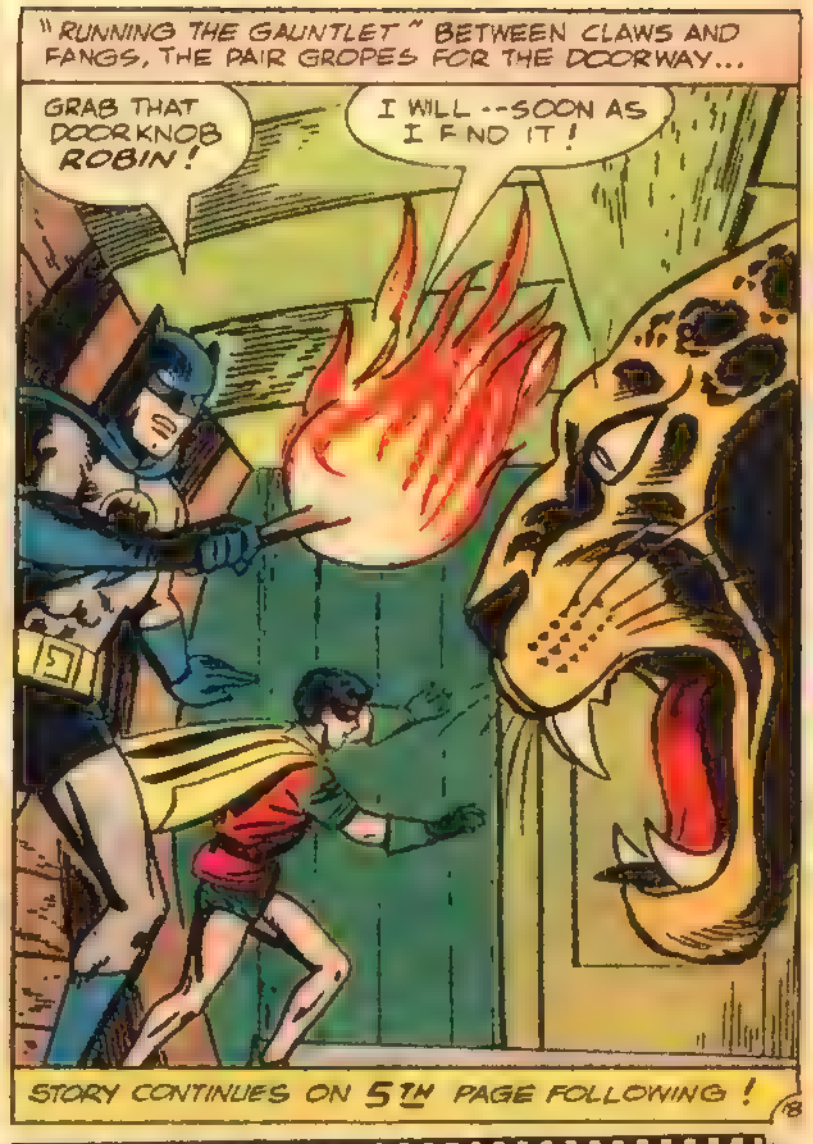
ROOAR!

A SCRATCHING OF CLAWS! A SNARL OF FELINE FURY! THERE IS NO TIME TO SLAM SHUT THE DOOR!...
THIS IS WHAT SCARECROW MEANT WHEN HE SAID--FAR WORSE IS TO FOLLOW!
DOWN I GO! I COULD FEEL THAT BEAST'S HOT BREATH COMING AT ME!
CATCH A TIGER BY THE TAIL--IF IT IS A TIGER...
REMEMBER THE SOLDIER'S CODE FOR FIGHTING FEAR, ROBIN! ACTION--AND MORE ACTION!
BRROTHERR!! HAVE I EVER GOT ACTION! I HAVE THIS CAT BY ITS TAIL AND I DON'T DARE LET GO!

THAT ATTACKING CAT CAN SEE-- AND I CAN'T! GOT TO LESSON THE ODDS...
SWISH!
ANGERED BY THE DODGE AND DART TACTICS OF ITS HUMAN PREY, THE PANTHER LEAPS, CLAWS OUT AND SHARP FANGS BARED...
WHERE IS IT? WHAT'S IT GOING TO DO?
GROWRR!
ROBIN, YOU OKAY? REMEMBER THE SECOND RULE OF SOLDIER COMBAT-- CALL OUT TO ONE ANOTHER! "MISERY LOVES COMPANY" IS STILL A GOOD RULE! I--
AAAGGHH!
ALARMED BY HIS FELLOW FIGHTER'S SUDDEN CRY OF ALARM, ROBIN LETS GO OF HIS HOLD...
BATMAN-- YOU ALL RIGHT?
NOT AT THE MOMENT-- BUT I WILL BE!
GROWRR!
THUD!

KNOWLEDGE IS ANOTHER THING THAT HELPS US FIGHT FEAR, ROBIN! WE'RE GOING TO THINK OUR WAY OUT OF THIS SITUATION! NOW--WHAT S THE ONE THING ALL WILD ANIMALS FEAR...
FIRE! I WAS GOING TO TRY A TEAR-GAS BOMB EVEN IF I WASN'T SURE WHETHER THESE ANIMALS HAVE TEAR DUCTS--BUT YOURS IS A BETTER WAY! AH! FOUND WHAT I WAS LOOKING FOR--THE SCARECROW'S CALLING CARDS-- STRAWS!
NOW OUT WITH YOUR LASER-BEAM TORCH!
GOTCHA!
USE THE HEAT OF THE LASER BEAM--SET THE STRAWS ON FIRE!
SURE--WHENEVER WE GO HUNTING, WE BUILD CAMPFIRES AT NIGHT TO KEEP THE WILD ANIMALS AWAY FROM US WHILE WE'RE SLEEPING!
SO IT OUGHT TO WORK JUST AS WELL HERE!
WE'LL NEED MORE THAN STRAWS TO--AHH! HERE WE ARE! SOME WOOD-- SMEARED WITH PITCH!
RIP

ANGRY SNARLS RISE FROM THE THROATS OF THE FURRY, FRUSTRATED FELINES AS...
IT'S WORKING! THEY'RE KEEPING AT A SAFE DISTANCE!
NOW WE'VE GOT TO PUT OURSELVES AT AN EVEN SAFER DISTANCE--OUTSIDE THIS ROOM!


"RUNNING THE GAUNTLET" BETWEEN CLAWS AND FANGS, THE PAIR GROPES FOR THE DOORWAY...
GRAB THAT DOORKNOB ROBIN!
I WILL--SOON AS I FIND IT!
STORY CONTINUES ON 5TH PAGE FOLLOWING!

The Chips are DOWN

GENIA

A VILLAINESS WITH A SUPER-BRAIN, HAS LEARNED THE SECRET IDENTITIES of BATMAN and SUPERMAN!

WILL THE WORLD'S FINEST TEAM ACTUALLY KILL TO KEEP HER FROM TELLING THE WORLD WHO THEY REALLY ARE?

FIND OUT IN...

ON SALE DEC. 13th

DC
WORLD'S FINEST
12
STARRING BATMAN and SUPERMAN
NO, SUPERMAN... BATMAN... DON'T SHOOT HER! KILLING IS AGAINST OUR CODE!
BUTT OUT, ROBIN! SHE DISCOVERED OUR SECRET IDENTITIES...
... SO WE'LL MAKE SURE SHE NEVER TALKS!
featuring GENIA MISTRESS of MALICE in "The BROKEN CODE!"

LETTERS TO THE BATCAVE -- EXTRA

DEAR READER: Why LETTERS TO THE BATCAVE—EXTRA? In journalistic jargon, "extra" signifies an edition of a newspaper other than the *regular* edition—and so it is with this EXTRA—in which are featured communications above and beyond the sphere of critical comments usually presented in LETTERS TO THE BATCAVE.

For this first EXTRA we've selected a couple of letters conveniently at hand—it's the best we could do on such short notice. This department will be as good as only *you* make it. Therefore we're extending an invitation to you—and *you*—and especially YOU—to make this page your own by sending in something of special interest to your fellow fans.

Perhaps you'd like to tell 'em what's your favorite all-time *Batman* story and why; the unusual circumstances under which you happened to start reading *Batman*; why you read *Batman*; what you would do if *you* were editor of *Batman*!

It's your right to write, *Batmaniacs*—so don't muff out on this EXTRA chance to break into print! Address LETTERS TO THE BATCAVE—EXTRA, National Periodical Publications, 575 Lexington Ave., New York, N.Y., 10022.—*Editor*

***

DEAR EDITOR: *Shades of the Old Look!* That's what I said to myself while reading your August, September and November issues of *Batman*. For years I have been a faithful follower of the *Caped Crusader*, and was delighted when you introduced your "*New Look*". But in the earlier part of this year, I knew it was only a matter of time before "it" would come. What brought on this reaction? Simple. The *Batman-TV* series. And what, you ask, is wrong with the series? I can sum it up in one word—*Camp!*

You see, *Batman* was always the most believable of your heroes; and the *New Look* took advantage of this "believability". However, the TV show is actually a parody of *Batman*. The producers admit they are only making fun of *Batman*. After watching a few of these shows, I was disappointed with it. But I still look forward to your mags. Then I had a horrible thought. What if you copied its camp style? And soon my fears were realized. The three main things I noticed were:

(1) The use of such expressions as *Holy Jitters* and *Holy Wanted Posters!* Such expressions are not only ridiculous, but very unrealistic.

(2) The overexaggerated POWS and OOFS cluttering up the fighting scenes and the awkward positions of clobbered thugs.

(3) The new gadgets. For instance; suction-cap ropeguns, a hypnotic disk, *Bat-springboards*, and a *Batsnooperscope* in the *Batmobile*, plus a lot of other *Batjunk*

These and others should be eliminated, the sooner the better. I like to think of *Batman* as the man who strikes terror into the hearts of criminals, rather than a slapstick clown, as in the TV series, and I'm sure that most of the readers agree with me.

—*Gary Collins, New York, N.Y.*

(Do you so agree, readers? We—and your fellow fans—would like to get more reactions—from youngsters and old-timers—from male and female.—*Editor).*

***

DEAR EDITOR: As much as I enjoy Mike Friedrich's letters in your column, and respect his opinions, I must disagree with his recent downgrading of the *Catwoman* in *Batman* 186.

Mike compared her to the recently introduced *Poison Ivy*, and concluded that *Catwoman* was to be doomed forever to that ever recurring graveyard of reprints, the *80-Page Giants*. Unfortunate as it is, the only stories to be reprinted are those from the early 1950's, when not only was *Catwoman* on her way out, but the entire *Batman* series.

However, this proves that a comparison of costumes between *Catwoman* and *Poison Ivy* would be highly unfair, since there is a difference of over ten years, and the styles *have* changed. I'm willing to bet that a new, modernized *Catwoman*, similar to the one portrayed on the television series, would *cat*apult *Poison Ivy* from her false position as *Batman's* chief female nemesis.

There are several reasons, mainly, the things *Catwoman* has that *Poison Ivy* hasn't.

(1) A gimmick. The long-standing trademark of *Batman* foes are their gimmicks. The *Joker's* many joke-based schemes, the *Penguin's* bird-umbrella crimes, *Two-Face's* double crimes, and so on. As a matter of fact the *Catwoman* has two—stealing things related to cats, and the enduring theme of her nine lives. Both have been greatly used, but never to their real potential.

(2) She is thoroughly evil, and even though she has tried to break away from her life of crime, she has always wound up in the role which suits her best, since the very concept of a cat is evil and mysterious. *Poison Ivy* steals merely because of her spoiled childhood and boredom with life.

(3) Perhaps her greatest asset, that she is a *Batman* foe from "way back". The *Catwoman*, between her first appearance in *Batman* Number One and her last in Number 86, had become as familiar as those greats, the *Joker* and *Penguin*. She is a "box office name", if you will, one that everyone knows, and loves to hate.

Catwoman is a character that is not to be doomed to comic limbo, but one to be reborn, and allowed once again to match wits with *Batman*.

—*James Faix, Bayonne, N.J.*

(Controversy—that's what we like! Readers, take sides—and fire away!—*Editor*)

DIRECT CURRENTS

Here we go again, with a look at the latest things in comics. Hold on while we plug you into our own private hot-line and give you the inside info on what's coming up in the most Dazzling Creations around

The **DOOM PATROL**'s down, but not out, as they return from the dead. But for how long, when they're confronted by the terrifying menace of "MANDRED THE EXECUTIONER"? **February Issue, No. 109**, on sale Dec. 6.

Lost: the planet THANAGAR! Lost: HAWKGIRL! Found: ADAM STRANGE! Three elements guaranteed to make "THE WORLD THAT VANISHED," in the **March HAWKMAN, No. 18**, the most sensational story yet! On sale Dec. 6

The female of the species is more deadly than the male!" Can SUPERMAN defeat a FEMALE BRAINIAC . . . even with the help of BATMAN and ROBIN? Find out in the **February WORLD'S FINEST, No. 164**, on sale Dec. 13

The man who was reared by a winged monster returns to lead the pterodactyls in a startling battle against a modern enemy in—"REVENGE OF THE BIG BIRDS!" **March STAR SPANGLED WAR STORIES, No. 131**, on sale Dec. 20

Imagine **LOIS LANE** communicating with sea creatures commanding a flying fish battalion . . . giving orders to an octopus! Read "LOIS LANE'S AQUAMAN TRICKS." In the **February Issue, No. 72**, on sale Dec. 20

Make room for a new super-hero—TORNADO-TOT! Who's responsible for his origin? None other than our playful pair and LITTLE ARTHUR, in the **March SUGAR AND SPIKE, No. 69**, on the stands Dec. 20.

BATMAN and HAWKMAN—that's the latest team-up in **THE BRAVE AND THE BOLD, No. 70 (March)**! The CAPED CRIME-FIGHTER's secret identity is at stake, and the WINGED WONDER is the only one who can help! On sale Dec. 22

ZATANNA's search for her missing father, ZATARA THE MAGICIAN, which started in HAWKMAN, then shifted to ATOM to GREEN LANTERN to ELONGATED MAN, concludes in the **February JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA, No. 51**, on sale Dec. 13.

The saga of the **NEW BLACKHAWK** ERA continues in the **February Issue, No. 229**, as the MAGNIFICENT 7 ask for one more chance to prove themselves! If they muff this one, it's BYE-BYE BLACKHAWKS! On sale Dec. 13

With the explosive fury of a bursting shell comes the **March 80 PAGE GIANT, No. 177**! It's DC's mighty 6 **BATTLE STARS** in their most titanic request war stories! You'll find 'em on the stands Dec. 13.

You'll share the grief of CLARK KENT when he mourns the loss of his beloved wife in "THE DEATH OF LOIS LANE!" This moving IMAGINARY STORY headlines the **February SUPERMAN, No. 194**, on sale Dec. 15.

The **February WONDER WOMAN** presents the mighty Amazon in two of her most astonishing adventures, featuring the fantastic villains of the GOLDEN AGE! It's **No. 168**, on sale Dec. 15. Be sure to get it!

The **METAL MEN**—the world's most unique robot band—soar into their most high-flying adventure—"THE BALLOON MAN HANGS HIGH!" This sensational saga's on the scene in the **March Issue, No. 24**, on sale Dec. 15

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION (Act of October 23, 1962; Section 4369, Title 39, United States Code)

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	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	Single Issue Nearest to Filing Date
A. Total No. Copies Printed (Net Press Run):	1,170,000	1,374,000
B. Paid Circulation: 1. Sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors and counter sales:	889,000	1,023,000
2. Mail subscriptions:	9,470	13,352
C. Total Paid Circulation:	898,470	1,036,352
D. Free Distribution (including samples) by mail, carrier or other means:	330	330
E. Total Distribution (Sum of C and D):	898,800	1,036,682
F. Office Use, Left-Over, Unaccounted, Spoiled After Printing:	271,200	337,318
G Total (Sum of E and F—should equal net press run shown in A):	1,170,000	1,374,000

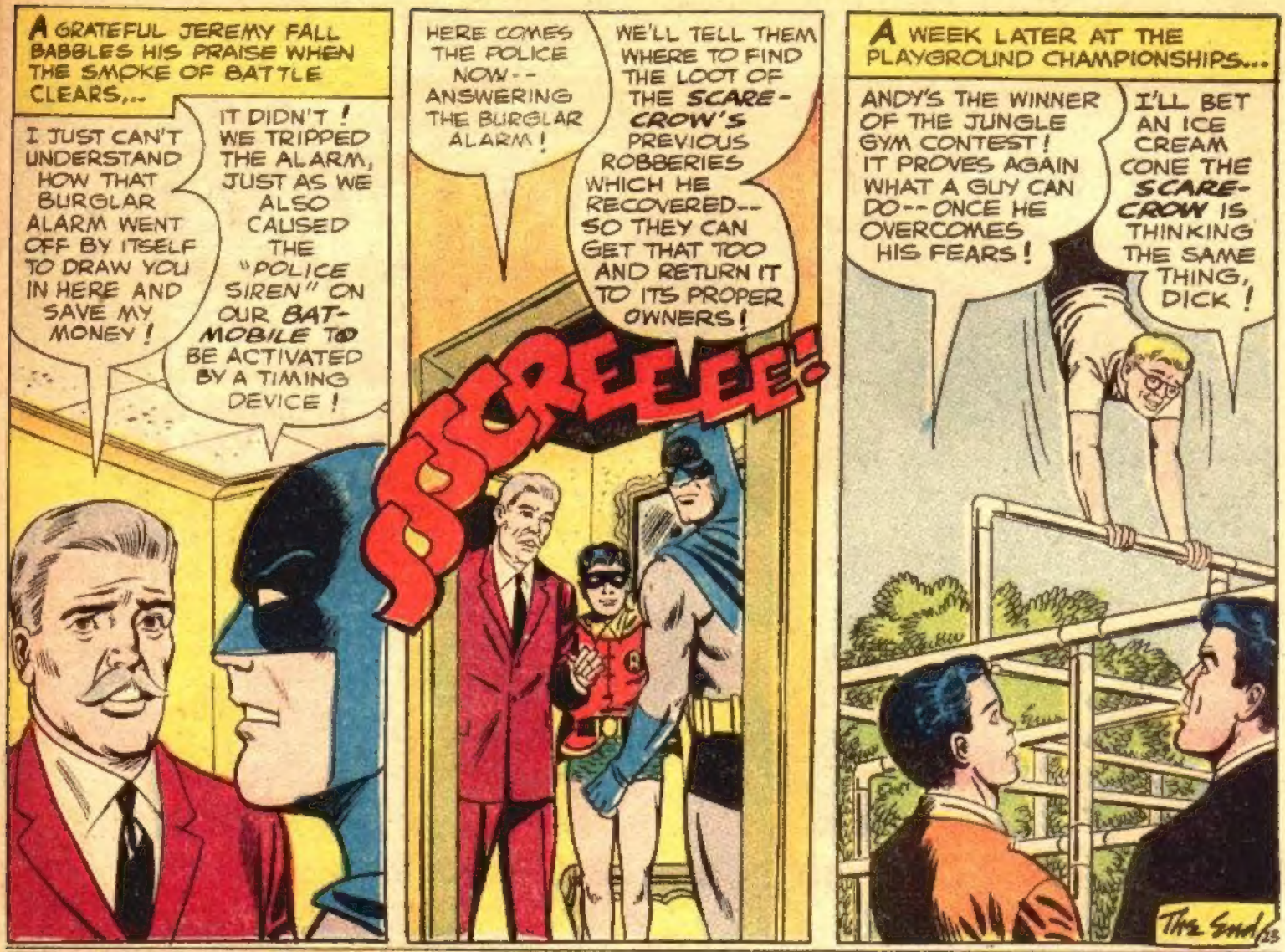
I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete. IRWIN DONENFELD, Business Manager.

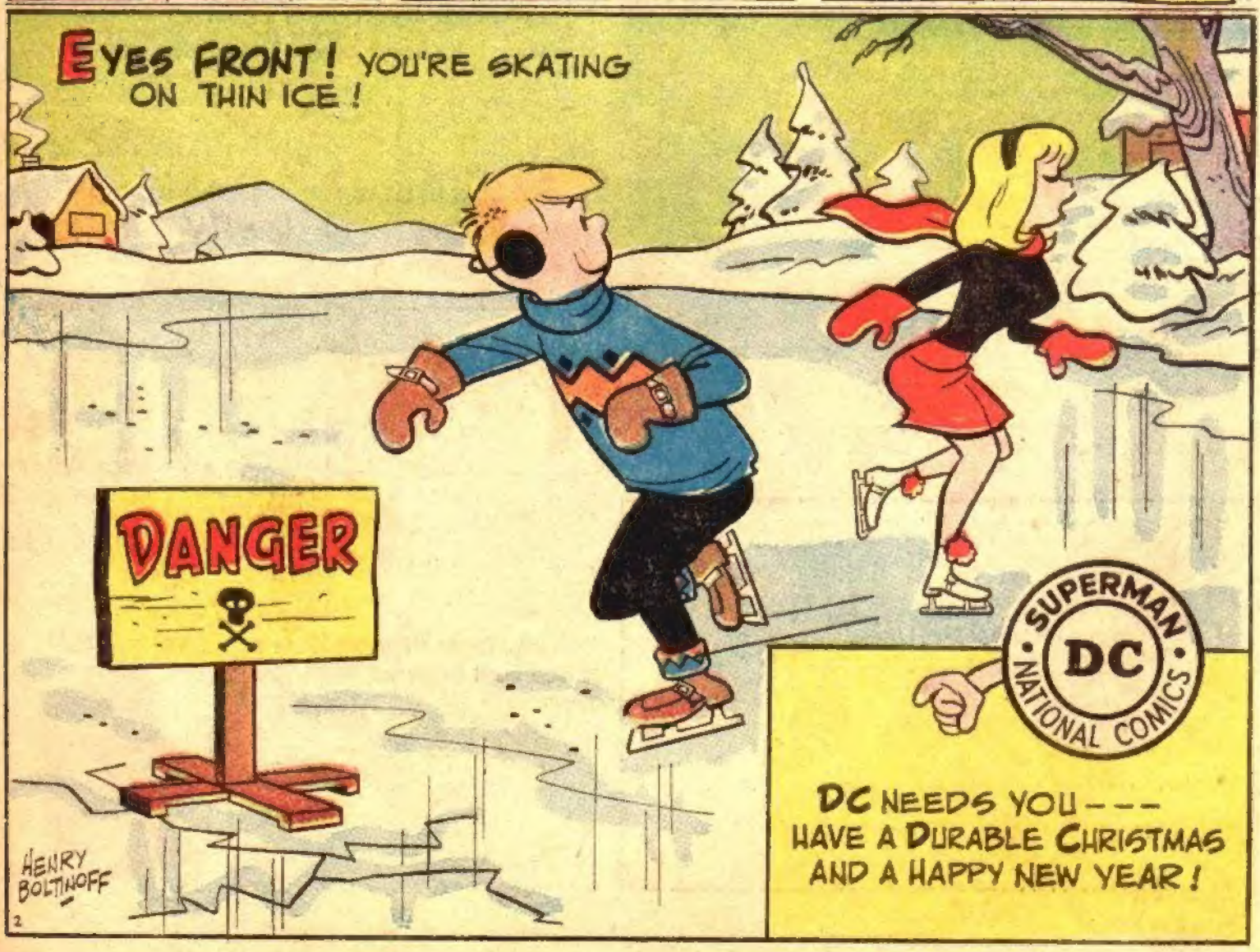
FRIGHT OF THE SCARECROW Part 3
TIME IS WARPED AS THE BOY WONDER'S NORMALLY DEFT FINGERS SLIDE AND SLIP AS THEY SEEK TO LOCATE THE DOORKNOB WHICH WILL OPEN A PATH TO SAFETY!
THE ANIMALS--HELD AT BAY BY THE FLAMES, SEEING THEIR PREY ABOUT TO ESCAPE--ARE GOING MAD WITH RAGE AND TERROR!
WHERE'S THAT DOOR? SEEMS LIKE HOURS SINCE I'VE BEEN GROPING FOR IT!
FOUND IT, BATMAN! FOLLOW MY VOICE!
IT'S OPEN! WHEWWW! THAT WAS CLOSE AS THE PROVERBIAL CAT'S WHISKERS!
THIS'LL KEEP 'EM AWAY TILL WE SLAM THE DOOR SHUT ON THEM!
BEHIND THE SAFETY OF THE DOOR, THE DYNAMIC DUO SAGS WITH EXHAUSTION...
PANT PANT AFTER ALL THAT--WE'RE FARTHER AWAY THEN EVER FROM CATCHING THE SCARECROW!
GASP CHEER UP, ROBIN! AT LEAST WE'RE STILL ALIVE TO TRY!

SIDE BY SIDE THEY MAKE THEIR WAY TO THE DECK, WHERE IN A LITTLE WHILE...
MY EYES ARE CLEARING! I CAN SEE THE STARS-- AND THE HARBOR LIGHTS!
ME TOO! BOY! THAT PANIC PEDDLER SURE PLAYED US FOR FALL GUYS!
IN THE BATBOAT...
THINK, ROBIN! WE MUST LEARN WHAT THE SCARECROW MEANT BY HIS THIRD CLUE-- THE WORD MARK!
HUH! HE MUST MEAN WE'RE "EASY MARKS", THE WAY WE'VE BEEN TOPPLING OVER LIKE DUCKPINS EVERY TIME HE PUSHES HARD!
THAT'S IT, CHUM! YOU BROKE THE CLUE!
HUH? WHA--? I DID? B-BUT HOW? WHAT'D I SAY?
EASY MARKS! GET IT? A MARK IS A VICTIM OF A SHARP PRACTICE OR A CUNNING SCHEME!
I KNOW THAT-- BUT NOT WHAT FOLLOWS!
YOU HIT ON THE ANSWER WHEN YOU CALLED US FALL GUYS! FALL GUYS ARE EASY MARKS!
EASY MARK? FALL GUY? I DON'T--HEYY! NOW I GET IT! THE SCARECROW IS REFERRING TO FALL--JEREMY T. FALL! HE'S THAT RICH FRIEND OF YOURS--er-- OF BRUCE WAYNE'S!
FALL-- THE MILLIONAIRE PHILANTHROPIST WHO LIKES TO KEEP LARGE SUMS OF CASH IN HIS HOUSE SO HE CAN PERSONALLY GIVE THEM TO CHARITY, SUCH AS THE UNITED FUND DRIVE THAT STARTS TOMORROW! THE SCARECROW'S LAST TRICK IS TO GRAB THAT MONEY FOR HIMSELF!

SHORTLY, IN THE RIVER-SIDE MANSION OF JEREMY T. FALL...
N-NO! NO! S-STOP PUFFING THAT SMOKE AT ME! IT'S S-SCARING ME TO D-DEATH!
IT'S YOUR MONEY OR YOUR LIFE, FALL!
ABRUPTLY-- A CHILLING SOUND...
CLANG--AAANG!
THE BURGLAR ALARM!? BUT I SHUT IT OFF MYSELF!
WE BETTER GET OUTTA HERE-- FAST! THE POLICE'LL BE HERE SOON--
SUDDENLY, TO THE STUNNED SURPRISE OF THE PRINCE OF PANIC...
YOU TWO! I LEFT YOU FOR DEAD BACK IN THE ARK!
IT'S OUR TURN TO INSTILL A LITTLE FRIGHT IN YOU, SCARECROW! WE SET OFF THAT BURGLAR ALARM!
HAVE SOME FEAR-- ROBIN'S HERE!
WHOOMP!
WE'LL "TABLE" THE FIREWORKS, BOYS!
I'LL MAKE THE DYNAMIC DUO SO FEARFUL THEY'LL SHAKE FOR A WEEK!

THEN--INTO THE ROOM COMES THE WAIL OF A POLICE SIREN...
SCREEEEE
A POLICE SIREN?! THAT'S ONE SOUND THAT MAKES EVEN ME FRIGHTENED! BUT HOW COULD THEY HAVE RESPONDED SO SWIFTLY TO THE BURGLAR ALARM?
I DON'T KNOW BUT I'M CLEARING OUT OF HERE!
WITH THE SPEED OF AN ANGRY COBRA, BATMAN STRIKES!...
THAT OUGHT TO END YOUR PIPE DREAM, SCARECROW!
ZZ-AAKK!
NEVER THOUGHT I'D EVER SEE A FLYING SCARE-CROW!
TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT THAT MONEY YOU WANTED TO STEAL! IT'S THE LAST CASH YOU'RE GOING TO SEE FOR A LONG TIME!
PLOP!
MEANWHILE, THE BOY WONDER HAS BEEN IN HIS OWN SLAM-BANG ACTION...
SKOK!
BWOPP!


A GRATEFUL JEREMY FALL BABBLES HIS PRAISE WHEN THE SMOKE OF BATTLE CLEARS...
I JUST CAN'T UNDERSTAND HOW THAT BURGLAR ALARM WENT OFF BY ITSELF TO DRAW YOU IN HERE AND SAVE MY MONEY!
IT DIDN'T! WE TRIPPED THE ALARM, JUST AS WE ALSO CAUSED THE "POLICE SIREN" ON OUR BAT-MOBILE TO BE ACTIVATED BY A TIMING DEVICE!
HERE COMES THE POLICE NOW-- ANSWERING THE BURGLAR ALARM!
WE'LL TELL THEM WHERE TO FIND THE LOOT OF THE SCARE-CROW'S PREVIOUS ROBBERIES WHICH HE RECOVERED-- SO THEY CAN GET THAT TOO AND RETURN IT TO ITS PROPER OWNERS!
SSSCREEEEE!
A WEEK LATER AT THE PLAYGROUND CHAMPIONSHIPS...
ANDY'S THE WINNER OF THE JUNGLE GYM CONTEST! IT PROVES AGAIN WHAT A GUY CAN DO-- ONCE HE OVERCOMES HIS FEARS!
I'LL BET AN ICE CREAM CONE THE SCARE-CROW IS THINKING THE SAME THING, DICK!
The End


EYES FRONT! YOU'RE SKATING ON THIN ICE!
DANGER
HENRY BOLTINOFF
2
SUPERMAN
DC
NATIONAL COMICS
DC NEEDS YOU---
HAVE A DURABLE CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!